MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): All useful suggestions will be welcome to them.

Reduction of the number of public holidays.

25. MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the grounds on which they recently reduced the number of public holidays; and

(*b*) the reason for removing each of the days thus reduced from the list of holidays?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The reduction of holidays is for the Judicial Department alone. It was made on the basis of the report of the Madras Retrenchment Committee, with a view to increase the number of working days for the Judicial Department and to lessen the arrears.

(*b*) The particular holidays to be reduced were fixed in consultation with the High Court.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was the desirability of cutting short the long vacation considered by the Government in connection with the reduction of arrears?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, it was considered.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why that was not found expedient instead of reducing the holidays?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The High Court was not in favour of that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the grounds on which they opposed that and suggested the removal of certain days from the list of holidays?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They merely said that they were not in favour of shortening the vacation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the particular holidays that are made working days now?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That has been published in the *Gazette*. If the member wants, I will read it out. They are

In Chingam	Vinayaka Chathurthi
„ Vrischikam	Thrikartikai
„ Makaram	Thai Pongal
	Mattu pongal
	Vavu Orikkal
„ Meenam	Yugadi Pandigai
„ Medom	Chithirapournami
„ Mithunam	Karkataka Sankranthi
„ Karkatakam	Vavu Orikkl
	Adi Aruthi.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government aware that many of these days are particularly important festival days or religious days either for the whole of the Hindu community or for particular sections of the community?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): These are the holidays which seemed to the High Court and to the Government such as may be converted into working days.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I may mention to the Government that Mattu Pongal is a very important day for the Tamilian community. Did the Government consider that aspect of the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This is the express opinion of the High Court and so Government accepted their opinion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The High Court never submitted any grounds for their decision?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The holidays were selected first by the Government and the High Court was consulted. Government selected 12 days as the High Court said that we could reduce the number of holidays by 12. Government selected the 12 days and referred to the High Court whether they accepted those days. They accepted all except two which have been omitted since.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know those two holidays which were not accepted by the High Court?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Ashtami Rohini and Deepavali days.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Now, may I know why the Government thought that these holidays may be removed from the list of holidays—for instance this particular one—Thai Pongal? Were the Government aware of the basis on which that was made a holiday?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There were too many holidays and Government thought these were the least difficult ones to abolish. Those that are left are apparently more important.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do they know that Thai Pongal is a very important day for the Tamilians?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I accept the member's statement to that effect.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did the suggestion of taking away these holidays proceed from the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The High Court asked the Government to fix the holidays that could be reduced. Government selected 12 days and consulted the High Court whether they agreed. They agreed except in the matter of 2 holidays.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the number of Hindu holidays that remain as holidays?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The total number may be about 34. I have not got the full list here.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why Government did not consider the desirability of reducing the period of the vacation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) Government did not want to go against the express opinion of the High Court.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was that to suit the convenience of the Judges and the lawyers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That may have influenced the High Court.

Export of gold from the State.

26. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of gold exported from this country during the last two years?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner has reported that no gold was exported through the customs houses in the State during the years 1106 and 1107.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does this answer mean that if gold is exported from the country, Government are not aware of it?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In the answer it is stated that the Excise Commissioner has reported that no gold is exported through the chowkeys.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know if gold is exported from this country, Government would get any information regarding it?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The information of Government is that gold was not exported.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): That is to say, Government are not in possession of information that gold is exported?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware of any export of gold from Travancore.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is export of gold dutiable?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is the Customs Office bound to take account of articles that are not dutiable?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The chowkeys are expected to note even non-dutiable articles.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Because the customs authorities have not taken note of it, are Government convinced that no gold is exported?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The only information available to Government is that gold has not been exported.

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